

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A separator for alkaline batteries (i) which comprises a non-woven fiber structural material comprising a polyamide fiber and a cellulose fiber as main component fibers, wherein

(ii) the polyamide fiber is a fiber formed with a polyamide constituted with a dicarboxylic acid unit and a diamine unit, the dicarboxylic acid unit comprising 60% by mole or more and 100% by mole or less of a terephthalic acid unit and the diamine unit comprising 40% by mole or more and 99% by mole or less of a 1,9-nonanediamine unit;

(iii) the cellulose fiber is a solvent-spun cellulose fiber produced by using a spinning solution prepared by dissolving cellulose into a non-reactive solvent; and

(iv) a ratio of an amount by mass of the polyamide fiber to an amount by mass of the cellulose fiber in the non-woven fiber structural material is in a range of 20:80 to 80:20.

Claim 2 (Original): A separator for alkaline batteries according to claim 1, wherein the polyamide forming the polyamide fiber comprises a 2-methyl-1,8-octanediamine unit in combination with the 1,9-nonanediamine unit, and a ratio of an amount by mole of the 1,9-nonanediamine unit to an amount by mole of the 2-methyl-1,8-octanediamine unit in the polyamide is in a range of 99:1 to 40:60.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A separator for alkaline batteries according to ~~any one of claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1, wherein the polyamide forming the polyamide fiber has a fraction of sealed chain ends of 10% or greater.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A separator for alkaline batteries according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein a size of a single fiber in the polyamide fiber is in a range of 0.01 to 1.0 dtex.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A separator for alkaline batteries according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the cellulose fiber is a solvent-spun cellulose fiber obtained by dry-wet spinning in water of a spinning solution prepared by dissolving cellulose into an amine oxide.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A separator for alkaline batteries according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the main component fibers are adhered together with a fiber-shaped binder.

Claim 7 (Original): A separator for alkaline batteries according to claim 6, wherein an amount of the fiber-shaped binder is in a range of 3 to 30% by mass based on a total of an amount by mass of the main component fibers and an amount by mass the fiber-shaped binder.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An alkaline battery which is equipped with a separator for alkaline batteries described in ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1.